

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

9:30 AM, Friday, January 17, 2025
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 9:31 by Carol Friedland

Attendance

In-person

Giovanna Aita, Kai Aryana, Jennifer Duhon, Carol Friedland, Greg Lutz, Kevin McCarter, Maddox Miller, Jha Prashant, Jonathan Richards, Rich Vlosky, and Brett Wolfe

Online

Chris Dunaway, Bruce Garner, Claudia Husseneder, Donnie Miller, Vinicius Moreira, Brittney Newsome, Mark Schafer, Sara Shields, Cecilia Stevens, and Evelyn Watts

Absent

William Afton, Michael Burnett, Becky Gautreaux, and Michael Mamp

Invited Guests

Dr. Matt Lee, Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture

AgCenter/COA Updates

Dr. Matt Lee thanked Rich Vlosky for the past years as chair. He is in full support of the LSU Ag Faculty Council.

LSU AgCenter and LSU A&M continue to move forward.

Large numbers for graduation and enrollment. Admissions for Fall 2025 are currently 16% above the year prior.

Todd Tarifa is serving as interim for 4-H Program leader.

LSU AgCenter programs are strong. ANR quality of programming has increased.

The research front includes a large grant opportunity for LaHouse due in February. IDEA project (pending) is \$20 million with a proposal on precision Ag.

The strategic plan is in final draft. Statewide address to come.

Stakeholder Questions

1. There are rumors about a campuswide “space audit”. What is the purpose? How will it be conducted? What are the criteria for assessment? Do people need to be nervous about reallocation of space?

The campus space audit is factual. Purpose: Looking at facilities, planning framework for new, renovations and rehabilitation. Renovate 25 labs in the next 2 years. Financially sound to commit to projects. Free up money on small things so that we can accomplish bigger things. Funded research, active publications, working with doctoral students=lab usage. Infrastructure will remain a focus. Farm Bill has a clause for research which can cover space.

2. What are the implications of changes in DEI labelled activities?

We prescribe to the language of engagement. DEI council to be revamped to engagement council looking at equity gaps. The LSU AgCenter is a diverse organization that supports the success of all.

3. What are the implications of the move to “Workday Student”? Any difficulties to be expected with the transition? There are some “posttraumatic workday transition” memories among the faculty.

Workday Student will give new tools that will benefit the college. It is not customizable so there will be growing pains. Faculty concerns on accessing student information needed similar to “SLATE” for advisement.

Additional discussion included the LSU AgCenter webpage. Content management is falling on faculty. 404 messages are abundant. We know that IT staff has been understaffed. Projects suffer because of this. Priorities have been hiring-Faculty and Agents. Very lean administratively.

Questions were raised about teaching online courses and the opportunities for more online courses in the college. Faculty and departments are ready but we don’t have enough instructor FTEs. LSU Online is basically another university. Remote learning is different. Systems are not the same. They cannot be taught in the same session to both sets of students. Online education will continue to grow but research needs to be in person to be AAU school.

PM 12-Tuition reimbursement for AgCenter only for LSU campuses not LSU Online. This needs to be revisited at a future meeting.

Annual conference will happen in December 2025.

Dr. Mike Salassi, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LAES Administration

Huron Consulting Group is meeting with LSU in February to help increase research expenditure.

New policy statement (PS 57) any faculty with 20% or more research appointment must have a Hatch project.

Faculty brought in more than \$40 million over last year. Federal grants are the most viable route for research support.

Accounting has hinted at an opportunity to purchase vehicles soon.

Conflict of Interest forms need to be updated annually.

Faculty leaving the AgCenter with active research grants need to discuss with Michelle Miller how to handle. We do not want to leave funding in the grant.

Twelve new faculty members can participate in the Hanover Grant Academy, a 6-month training program.

\$11M in Research Station funds and \$4M Departmental research funds needs from the 2023 Legislative Session need to be spent/received by the end of this year.

Funding through legislation discussed especially funds that needed to be used by end of fiscal year.

Louisiana Agriculture is a quarterly magazine published by the LSU AgCenter. It showcases LSU AgCenter Research Projects and Extension Programs. Faculty are encouraged to publish research results when possible.

Events: Ag Outlook conference went well. Precision Ag coming up. In February, Ag Consultants and the Rice Tech Working Group have meetings. Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Day to be held on Feb 28 at the Red River research Station

Ashley Gautreaux, Assistant Vice President; Department, Human Resource Management

Human Resource Management website has been redesigned and is now more user-friendly.

Employee Performance Evaluations are now open. There is a new form to update job descriptions. The AgCenter has previously relied too heavily on position vacancy announcements (PVAs). Instead, job descriptions need to be reviewed/updated annually. Final documents for associates and unclassified employees need to be uploaded in Workday.

New Wellness Wagon program available for physical and mental health wellness.

In 2024, the Social Security Fairness Act was passed, and it repealed the Government Offset Pension (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which greatly reduced social security benefits for people receiving a pension. For someone to receive social security benefits while also receiving a pension they would still need to have 40 quarters in the social security system.

Dr. Tara Smith, Assoc. Vice President & Director LAES Administration
(Provided notes)

In 2025 we will be focusing on statewide engagement with clientele, professional development and philanthropy.

Overall educational contacts have increased by over 25% during the last two years. Our five-year goal is to increase contacts by an additional ½ million to reach a total of 1.7 million citizens

In 2025 we will focus on stratifying our community and economic development extension programs throughout the state. Dr. Jessica Stroope has been hired as the statewide CED

specialist and will be working with our vast extension network and clientele to identify funding opportunities to further improve the lives of those we serve – where they live and work daily.

In alignment with the National 4-H Beyond Ready campaign, we aim to increase both 4-H club and overall enrollment in 2025 and beyond. We have set a statewide goal of increasing club enrollment by 2,500 enrolled youth for each of the next five years. In 2023-2024, we reached a total of 41,227 4-H Club Members. In the current year, we have presently reached 35,980 4-H Club Members. If we base our goal on the previous year's number of 4-H Members (41,227) and we increase enrollment by 12,500 youth over the next five years, we will have a **23% percent increase** in youth membership, and with this increase would reach **53,727** youth. We anticipate reaching over 150,000 youth in LA by 2030.

Continue to increase FFA participation and synergize efforts between 4-H and FFA youth development programs.

Continue building NCH successes by enhancing community partnerships and establishing Healthy Community Programs. Furthering partnering with the LSU System on obtaining the NCI designation.

We have strategically hired several new ANR agents and specialists across all ANR programming areas. 2025 will be a year of grassroots efforts to stratify ANR programs throughout the state. ANR agents will be participating in a statewide professional development bus tour highlighting Louisiana Agriculture in August 2025.

Twenty Extension faculty were recently awarded \$5,000 seed grants, totaling over \$100k. These programs will be implemented during the next two years and will serve as catalysts for additional funding and will realize impacts across all programming areas.

The extension intern program is entering its 3rd year. We are excited to place up to 20 interns across the state which will serve as a pipeline for future extension positions. Application information is forthcoming.

Extension administration prioritizes professional development for all extension employees and has worked to establish a professional development framework, inclusive of onboarding for all new extension faculty, programmatic onboarding, and administrative professional development with parish chairs, in addition to the Extension Summit, Annual Conference, and regional extension retreats.

Successes of faculty:

- Extension faculty are also collaborating or serving as the PI on grant proposals and contributing the overall metrics associated with extramural funding and research expenditures.
- Numerous faculty have received awards and recognition during the reporting period as well.
- Educational Contacts Reach – 1,209,499 for FY 24, which has increased by over 1/4 of a million over the last 2 years (up from 1,030,000 in FY 23 and 927,000 in FY 22)
- Electronic Contact Reach – 44 million+ and increasing (up from 43 million)
- Annual Educational Activities – 20,907 (up from 19K in FY23)

- Number of 4-H members and participants – 113,130
Percentage of increase - **20.35%** (prior was 94004)
- Number of 4-H volunteer leaders – 13,413
Percentage of increase: **27.54%** (was 10,517)
- 4-H programs are far-reaching and active across 2,120 schools and community locations.
- The Louisiana 4-H Shooting Sports Team are once again reigning national champions after defeating competitors from across the United States.
- 4-H University hosted more than 1,300 4-H members. This was the largest and most successful 4-H University since the pandemic. 4-H camp hosted over 3,000 youth. FFA camp hosted over 1,300 youth.
- An estimated 11,000 Louisiana citizens serving as volunteers in specialized programs like Master Gardener, Master Farmer, Master Horseman, Master Cattleman, Master Goat Manager, and Master 4-H Volunteer Leader.
- Of the approximately 9,000 Louisianans that have participated in AgCenter nutrition programs, 75% have adopted healthier eating habits and two-thirds are becoming more physically active.
- Nutrition, health, family and community development programs – participants) – 325,292
Percentage increase in number of contacts - **8.34%**. (was 300,259)
- Healthy community programs have reached 170 healthy community coalitions and have established 994 health community partnerships across Louisiana
- Over the past two years, the LSU Ag Center Healthy Communities program has guided small communities through the application process while working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to make funding projects possible. As a result, 11 communities with populations under 5,000 received over \$13 million for pedestrian improvements thanks to changes in the state's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Dr. Fred Piazza, Director, LSU AgCenter Information Technology

(Provided notes)

Single Sign-on:

To reduce complications with multiple user accounts and passwords, the following applications will now accept AgCenter user IDs and passwords:

Application Name	Credentials Used	Application Owner, Contact
Workday	LSU AgCenter	Various LSU A&M Units
CBTravel	LSU AgCenter	CBTravel
Supplier.io	LSU AgCenter	LSU Procurement
EHS	LSU AgCenter	Environmental Health and Safety
CampusGroups	LSU AgCenter	LSU Student Services, Campus Life

Blackbaud	LSU AgCenter	LSU Foundation, Financial Aid & Scholarships
FBS (Lab Application for select users)	LSU AgCenter	Pennington Biomedical
LSU Training (training.lsu.edu)	LSU AgCenter	LSU ITS
Moodle (for instructors)	LSU AgCenter	LSU Faculty Technology Center / LSU Online
Slate or "Grad Slate"	LSU AgCenter	LSU Graduate School
Disability Services (denali.accessiblelearning)	LSU AgCenter	LSU Disability Services
LSU Parking Application	LSU AgCenter	LSU Parking

Other applications provided by LSU A&M and/or partner institutions may still require a separate user ID and password. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Application Name	Credentials Used	Application Owner, Contact
SIRSI Catalog	LSU A&M (@lsu.edu)	LSU Library
TDX (LSU ITS Service Request)	LSU A&M (@lsu.edu)	LSU ITS
EZProxy (Library application)	LSU A&M (@lsu.edu)	LSU Library

For more information and updates, visit the following LSU AgCenter IT Knowledge Base article (use AgCenter ID and password to access): [LSU Authentication for Applications](#)

Old Business

1. The minutes of the November 15, 2024, LSU AFC meeting were accepted pending the correction of Kai Aryana's name spelling.

Maddox Miller made a motion to accept the November 15, 2024 meeting notes. Kai Aryana seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Vice-Chair Election

Kevin McCarter was elected (7/6).

2. Recorder Election

Will Afton ran unopposed.

3. Executive Committee Election at Next Meeting: The Executive Committee will consist of the three officers, past chair, and two to four additional members, with representation from on- and off-campus Council members, elected at the first meeting of each year after election of the officers.

AFC Executive Committee nominees put forth at the meeting are Giovanna Aita, Maddox Miller, and Donnie Miller. Additional names will be accepted prior to the election at the next meeting.

4. AFC 2025
 - a. Initiatives
 - b. Priorities
 - c. Tactics

Carol discussed the need to adhere to the bylaws and represent our constituencies. We will be forming committees and working to support the Vice President of Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Matt Lee. We will also make sure we are aligned with Louisiana Open Meetings Laws.

2025 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-12:00pm/Room 212 Efferson Hall or Teams

Dates-Planned for 3rd Friday of Each Month. Recurring Invitation Sent

~~January 17~~

February 21

March 21

April 25

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December ?

Adjourn

Maddox Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jha Prashant seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:17.